

士 郎 正 宗

PROMETHEUS UNBOUND

APPLESEED

S H I R O W M A S A M U N E



APPLESEED™

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APPLIED™ BOOK TWO: PROMETHEUS UNBOUND

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PROMETHEUS UNBOUND

APPLESEED™

story and art by S H I R O W M A S A M U N E

translation by DANA LEWIS + TOREN SMITH
[with DUANE JOHNSON]

lettering by TOM ORZECOWSKI





[8] ALIEN



[9] DOMINATE THE MIND



[10] HIDE & SEEK



[11] ZERO HOUR



[12] BATTLE OF TUPHON



[13] APPLE SEED



[14] CYBERNETICS

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士郎正宗

SHIROW MASAMUNE



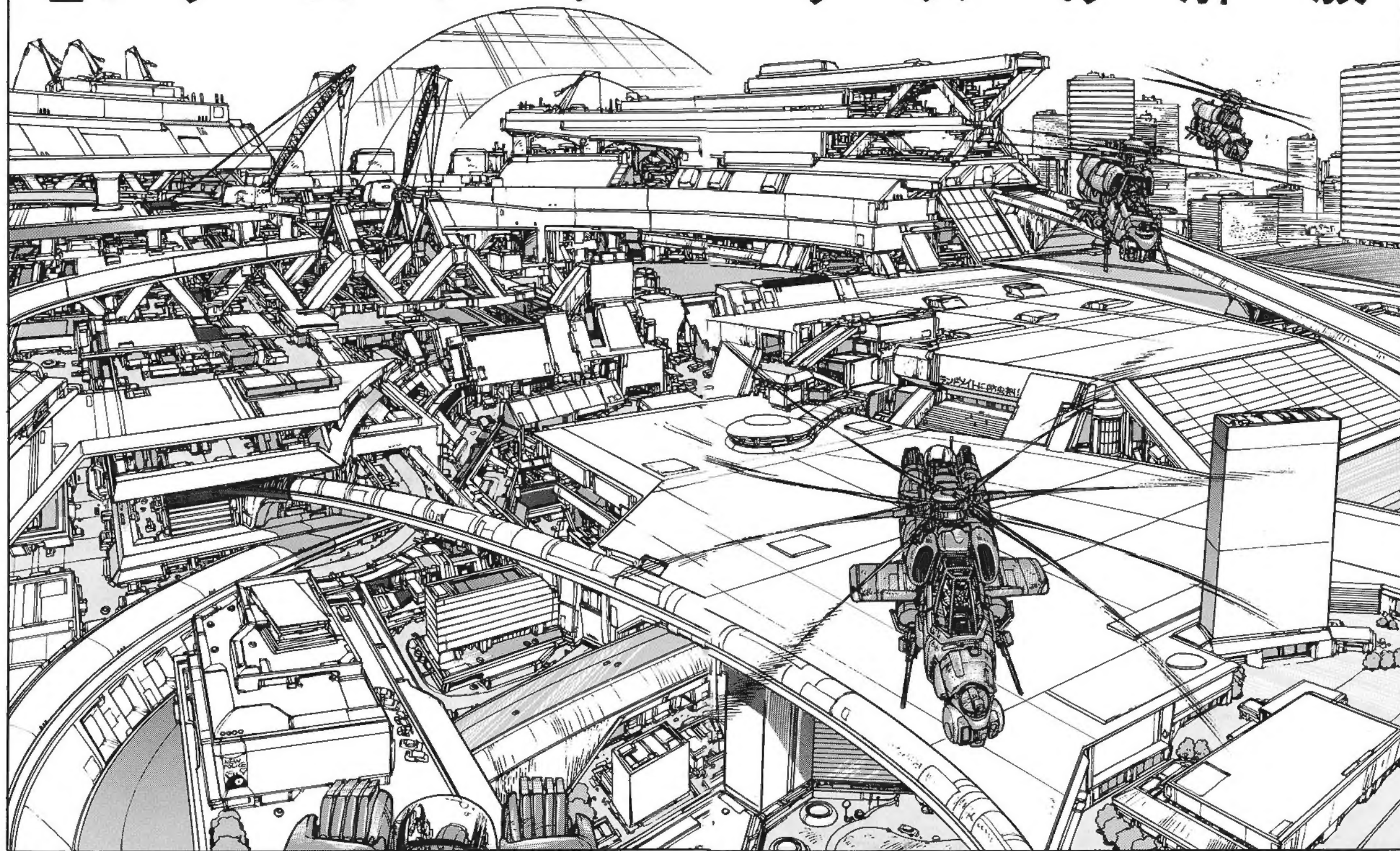
THE TIME IS EARLY IN THE
TWENTY-SECOND CENTURY.
THE EARTH HAS BEEN
UNIFIED UNDER AEGIS, A
CENTRAL MANAGEMENT
BUREAU RUN EXCLUSIVELY
BY BIONOIDS (ENHANCED
ARTIFICIAL HUMANS).

UNDER THE BENEVOLENT
BUT WATCHFUL EYE OF
AEGIS THE OLD NATIONS
ARE RUSHING TO REBUILD
FROM THE DESTRUCTION
WROUGHT BY THE THIRD
WORLD WAR.

YET PEOPLE STILL RAISE
SOME TIMES TO WONDER
HOW THE WAR REALLY
BEGAN—AND DARK CLOUDS
HAVE BEGUN TO GATHER
OVER AEGIS ITSELF...



2. プロメテウスの解放

























WATCH IT... TRAINING ACCIDENTS ARE A GREAT WAY TO GET RID OF UNDESIRABLES...

ANYWAY, I'LL MOSTLY BE STUDY AND SPECIAL TRAINING AT FIRST. I'LL STILL BE ABLE TO COME SEE YOU, THOUGH.



LOOKS LIKE A P7* UNDER THOSE WHITES. TO A CIVILIAN HE'D LOOK CLEAN...

HE'S ARMED.

I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT AT FIRST, BUT DON'T LET THEM KNOW WHAT YOU DO. SEE THAT GUY UNDER THE TREE THERE?



SINCE WHEN AM I A WOLF-MAN, HUNT?

SILVER BULLETS HURT PLenty, MY BOY!



...AND I'LL BET THEY'VE BEEN TALKING YOU AS WELL.

THE MORE THEY TALK TO YOU, THE MORE THEY'LL FIND OUT.

ANYWAY, THEY'VE OBVIOUSLY GOT ME MARKED...



OH, YEAH, YEAH...

I'LL GET THE DETAILS WHEN I MEET THEM LATER TODAY.

YEAH, FOR SOME SWAT UNIT DEALING WITH SPECIAL CRIMES, REPORTING DIRECTLY TO ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR ATHENA.

WELL, HUM!





AFTER ALL,
TAKE THIS
CITY.
TAKE THE
WORLD.

SENT BY
THE OLD
COUNTRIES,
REMEMBER?
TO GATHER
INTELLI-
GENCE AND
SABOTAGE
OLYMPUS.

BUT A
LOT OF THE
IMMIGRANT
CRIMINALS
ARE DAMNED
GOOD...

I'VE BEEN
CHECKING OUT
THE HUMANS
HERE... MOST OF
THEM JUST SEEM
TO BE NORMAL
REFUGEES, EVEN
THAT CROWD
HYOMI'S BROUGHT
IN HAS ONLY A
COUPLE REAL
HARD CASES



HAY?

OH!



HA,
HA!



HA, HA,
HA... IT
TAKES
MORE
THAN THAT
TO MAKE
YOU LOOK
CUTE.

HMPH! DO
YOU SUPPOSE
THAT BUTTER-
FLY WAS A
SORT OF
STANDING
DUNCE
CAP?



WELL,
IT'S YOUR
FAULT FOR
TAKING
SO LONG
TO GET
WELL!

ALL THOSE
DARN
FLOWERS
YOU'VE
BROUGHT
ME...

MUST BE
POLLEN
FROM THAT
DAISY YOU
DROPPED
ON MY
PILLOW.



Dunce cap is paper hat placed on the head of a fool or silly person





WE CAN
EXTEND
LONGEVITY...
IN FACT,
WE'RE ONLY
A STEP
AWAY FROM
IMMORTAL-
ITY.

DON'T
WORRY,
YOUNG LADY.
THERE ISN'T
AN INJURY
OR DISEASE
WE CAN'T
CURE
HERE IN
OLYMPUS.



HRMMPH!
WHY DO
YOU KEEP
ON ASKING
ME THAT?

BY THE
WAY...
WHEN CAN
HE COME
HOME?



WHAT
FOLKS
WANT AND
WHAT
NATURE
DECREES
ARE IN
CONSTANT
CONFLICT.

EXACTLY,
EXACTLY!

DON'T
YOU
THINK
THAT'S
GOING
A LITTLE
TOO FAR?
OR THEN
AGAIN...



THEY'VE EVEN
SCARRED THE
TROPICAL RAIN
FOREST AND
THE CONTINEN-
TAL SHELVES.
THE KEY REG-
ULATORS FOR
THE ENTIRE
SYSTEM.

BUT THEN
HUMANS
COME ALONG
AND TEAR
INTO IT!
USE IT UP!
POLLUTE
IT!



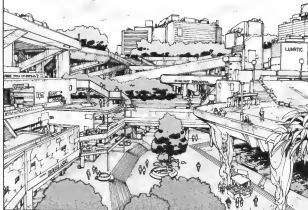
IT'S A FINE
BALANCE OF
ORGANIC AND
INORGANIC
SYSTEMS, ALL
WORKING IN
HARMONY. IT'S
LIKE A SINGLE,
LIVING
ORGANISM.

LOOK
AT THIS
EARTH
HERE!



WHOLE
DAMN WORLD'D
BE A MORE
PEACEFUL PLACE
IF THEY'D
JUST LEAVE IT
TO THE
BORGES!

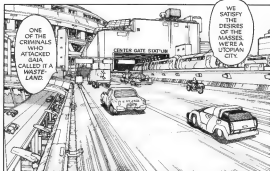




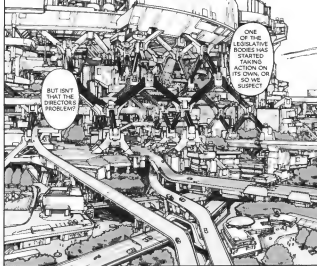




criminology: the study of law, intelligence, personality, way of life, environment, and such related to the crimes of criminals.



ESMA Extra Special Weapons And Tactics



BUT ISN'T THAT THE DIRECTOR'S PROBLEM?

ONE OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES HAS STARTED TAKING ACTION ON ITS OWN, OR SO WE SUSPECT



YOUR FATHER, CARL KNUTE... A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE WALKING AROUND WITH HIS GENETIC DATA IN THEIR CHROMOSOMES.

TO BE PRECISE, HALF OF YOU.



EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE GATA INCIDENT WAS IN THE GROUP-- INCLUDING YOU

THEY'VE BEEN COLLECTING ALL THE PEOPLE STILL OUT IN BADSIDE WHOSE GENETIC MATERIAL WAS USED IN THE FIRST GENERATION OF BIOROIDS. THAT MAKES IT OUR PROBLEM.





“FBI” and the old American mafia. But the highest priority police organization in Olympus. Charged with investigating terrorist activities.











SHE'S HAD A LONGER CAREER THAN YOU, LIEUTENANT. FRONT LINE STUFF, BUT WE REALLY JUST WANT TO TIE HER DOWN-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE HER.

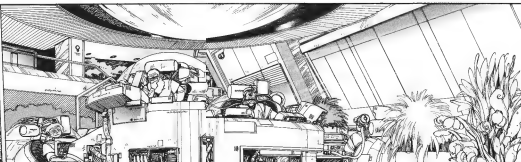










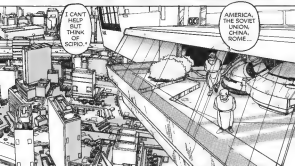




IT'S IRONIC, BUT THE LAST WAR, NON-NUCLEAR, GAVE US A NEW LEASE ON LIFE.

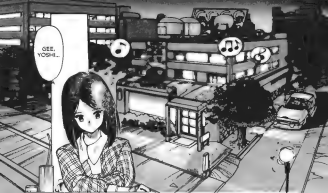


**Turing tests: developed by the British mathematician Alan Mathison Turing. A test using carefully designed questions to distinguish between computer programmed reply and human thought processes.*



*SciPIO (the under) the famous Roman general. Upon seeing Rome as a Carthage in Rome. He is said to have remarked: "And someday Rome"





OEE, YOSH!!



HUH? HAPPY-NESS??



DO YOU THINK OUR SENSE OF HAPPINESS IS "DISTORTED" ...?



IT MEANS ME!

ME!

DELINQUENT, WHAT DOES HAPPY-NESS ALL MEAN?

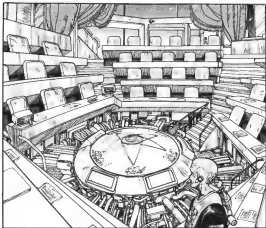
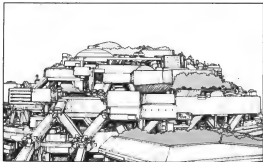
SORRY ABOUT THIS, BUT I'VE SET UP A BOOBY TRAP FOR BURGLARS IN MY ROOM. IF YOU WANT TO SEE ME, BETTER USE THE INTERCOM.

HITOMI

WELL, THAT'S WHAT THOSE OLD GUYS SAY...





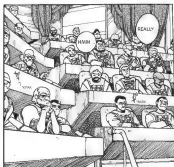




THE
DATA YOU
HAVE
JUST
HEARD...

MORE-
OVER...

...CLEARLY
INDICATES THAT
THE OLD
SUPERPOWERS
STILL POSSESS
MILITARY
CAPABILITIES.



REALLY

HMM

...WOULD
LIMIT THE
ILLEGAL
DISTRIBUTION
OF MILITARY
MACHINERY
AND EQUIP-
MENT.

...THE
ACQUISITIONS OF
THE NATIONAL
RIFLE ASSOCIATION
ASIDE, I
FEEL THAT
RESTRICTING
LANDMINE
SALES...







*Elys, personification of hope or expectation in Greek mythology. The last creature left in Pandora's box after all the evils of the world had escaped.

YOU REALLY SHOULD GET SOME STRESS MEASUREMENTS DONE. AND CHECK IT OUT FOR METAL FATIGUE. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

THIS IS COMPLETELY WORN OUT. GEE-ZUZ...



THIS THING'S A MACHINE, RIGHT?

WELL, YOU KNOW TESTS LIKE THAT... REAL MONEY-EATERS.



EXPENSIVE. I'LL BET...?



JUST CHANGE THE PARTS, OKAY?

GUESS I'LL SKIP THE TESTS...



...MAINTENANCE DETERMINES PERFORMANCE--- THAT MUCH IS THE SAME. YOU BUY SAFETY IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO HOW MUCH MONEY YOU'RE WILLING TO SPEND.



EVEN WITH CYBORGS?

MAYBE... OF COURSE, IT'S A DIFFERENT DESIGN PHILOSOPHY. SO I CAN'T REALLY SAY. BUT -



WE MAY BE ABLE TO COPY THE HUMAN BODY, BUT WE STILL CAN'T MATCH HUMAN BIOLOGY.



THE ROOM: THE HALL



STOP YOUR BLATHERING AND TRY BLINKING!



THE GROUND: THE HALL



THEY WERE "BURNED" BECAUSE OF THE EYE.



YOU DON'T NEED TO!

I CAN'T WINK!



HEY! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?







*technology predicated on the harmonious coexistence of man and nature





WE SHOULD NOT SIMPLY STAND BACK AND WATCH MANKIND DESTROY ITSELF.



THAT IS EXACTLY THE POINT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE DEBATED BY THIS HOUSE AS A MATTER OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY.

ISN'T IT A FORM OF REBELLION AGAINST THE HUMAN RACE?



DOESN'T THIS CONCEPT OF YOURS OVERSTEP THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN US AND THE HUMANS?

WHAT WE NEED NOW IS A GATHERING OF INDIVIDUAL UNITS THAT CAN REGULATE THE RANGE OF THEIR EQUALITY!!



FREEDOM BREEDS ISOLATION! THAT'S THE LESSON OF HUMAN HISTORY! EQUALITY CREATES NOTHING BUT THE DEATH OF THE INDIVIDUAL!

THE PROBLEM ISN'T WITH CONTENT OR DETAILS! IT'S WITH THE WHOLE INTENT OF YOUR PLAN!

HUMANS ARE DIFFERENT FROM US!!



EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SHOULD IDEALLY BE PERFORMED AT A MOLECULAR LEVEL...



WE SPEAK OF DEVELOPMENTAL POTENTIAL THAT COULD GENERATE MATERIAL AFFLUENCE AS A NATURAL BY-PRODUCT.

TAKE THE
DESIRE TO
RETURN TO THE
CRADLE TO AN
EXTREME, AND
ALL YOU GET
IS DEATH!!
WHAT KIND OF
UTOPIA IS
THAT?!

LISTEN TO ME!
PEOPLE HAVE
BECOME TOO
MATERIALISTIC!
THEIR
NETWORKS ARE
DISINTEGRATING--
THEY'RE
FORGETTING
EVEN HOW TO
NETWORK!

BEFORE
OPENING
THE
PROPOSAL TO
DEBATE,
I WOULD
LIKE TO ASK
GAM TO
ANALYZE THE
DEFINITION
OF
"HUMAN."

THIS WHOLE
AFFAIR HAS
THE POTENTIAL
FOR
INFORMATION
POLLUTION
WITHIN THE
LEGISLATURE
ITSELF

??

EH?

DIRECT-
TOR!

CLEARLY
THIS PROBLEM
EXCEEDS OUR
JURISDICTION. JUST IN
CASE, I WOULD LIKE
THE ELDERS TO
REMAIN... "AVAILABLE,"
FOR THE PRESENT. I
ASK FOR YOUR UNDER-
STANDING, GENTLE-
MEN.

...I'LL
ARRANGE
FOR THAT
MYSELF.

NO...

カッパ

ay

WJ-11111111

WJ-11111111



continued



TODAY WE ARE THE WEALTHIEST NATION ON THE PLANET.



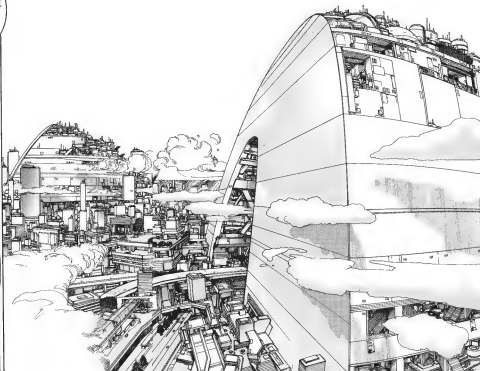
WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT? TAX HIKE?

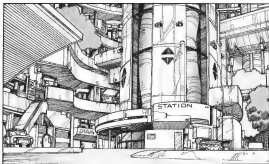


TO HELL WITH GOODS... GIVE ME LAND!

BUT JUST LOOK AT THOSE POOR PEOPLE... HOW CAN WE JUST...

TOO MUCH WELFARE CAN BE MISUSED!







EVEN ASSUMING THE GUINEA PIGS WERE A CAREFULLY SELECTED SAMPLE OF HUMANS WHO REJECTED MATERIAL CIVILIZATION...



NOT REALLY.

WELL, AT LEAST WE CAN TRUST THE DIRECTOR AND GAILA...



THOSE HUMANS WHO DID COME TO OLYMPUS MAY BE IN CRISIS, JUST AS THE COUNCIL SAYS. BUT THE PEOPLE WHO REFUSED TO COME HAVE ALL HAD OFFSPRING WHO ARE ALMOST UNBELIEVABLY INDEPENDENT FOR THEIR AGE.



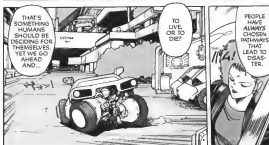
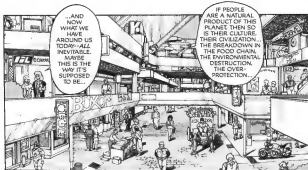
ALL THE PRIMARY GENE DONORS WHO REFUSED OUR INVITATION TO IMMIGRATE TO OLYMPUS WERE LEADERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS.



PERHAPS YOU CAN'T RAISE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT SOME SUFFERING AND DERIVATION...BUT THAT'S WHAT THE MASSES WANTED FROM US.



WE HAVE EVERYTHING HERE THE MASSES COULD WANT.



© 1994 MARVEL

"determinism: the school of thought that future circumstances are determined exactly by causal relationships. That they are determined no more than partly due to free will and quantum mechanical accidents is indeterminism. The Greeks originally make this argument.



BUT NO COMPUTER CAN REPLICATE STILL-UNKNOWN PORTIONS OF THE HUMAN CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM--AND THAT'S WHY WE SEVEN WERE SELECTED TO PUT BEHIND US THE INDIVIDUALITY AND POSSESSIVENESS OF NORMAL LIFEFORMS AND FUNCTION AS GAI'S CENTRAL CPU.



MORE-OVER... GAI WAS BUILT TO BE AN IMPARTIAL MEDIATOR BETWEEN HUMANS AND BIO-ROIDS.

THEY MADE US TO BE RELIABLE, UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED THIRD PARTIES IN HUMAN DISPUTES, INVESTED WITH ABSOLUTE TRUST.

WE BIO-ROIDS WERE CREATED DURING THE INITIAL PLANNING FOR THE OLYMPUS PROJECT BY THE PACIFIST LEADERS OF THE WORLD...



THAT TOTALLY OBJECTIVE, TOTALLY UNBIASED, TOTALLY IRRESPONSIBLE POCKET CALCULATOR?

WITHOUT US?

HEW!

AND THE DIRECTOR'S GOING TO HAVE GAI JUDGE OUR PROPOSAL...!



MORE LIKELY BECAUSE NOBODY EVER NOTICES YOU. I BET.

OH BOY OH BOY OH BOY!

G-GEE! YOU DON'T THINK MAYBE I'VE GOT SOME LATENT SUPER-POWER, HUH...?

YESM.

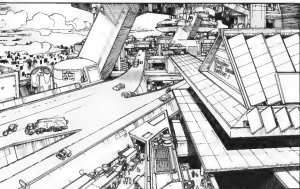
MEE? THEY ASKED FOR ME?



I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THIS--I'M COMING WITH YOU.

EEEP!





THIS IS
PURE
CONJEC-
TURE...



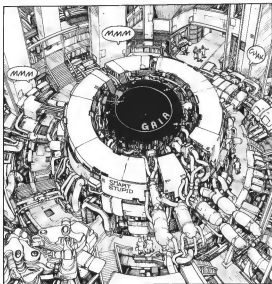
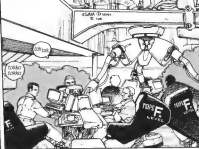
ONLY THE
DIRECTOR HAS
THE AUTHORITY
TO INTERVENE
WITH GAILA,
AND THERE'S
NOTHING GOING
ON BETWEEN HIM
AND THE
COUNCIL--
HE'S CLEAN.

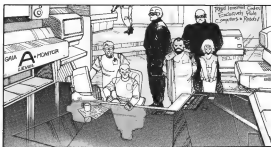
YOU THINK THAT'S
WHY THEY DIDN'T MAKE
A FUSS ABOUT SELLING
LANDMATES? I THINK YOU
OVERRATE THOSE
MACHINES. THOSE NEW
ROBOT GUN PLATFORMS
ARE BUILT TO FIGHT
LANDMATES, AND
THEY'RE CONTROLLED
DIRECTLY BY GAILA.

THAT
WOULD
EXPLAIN THE
LANDMATES,
THE BLACK
MARKET
WEAPON-
RY...

...BUT COULD
THE COUNCIL
HAVE BEEN
GATHERING
THOSE GUINEA
PIGS JUST IN
CASE THE
LEGISLATURE
REJECTED
THEIR PLAN?
COUP D'ETAT?

















"SO TO GAIN, THAT'S ALL REALLY."

SO WHAT DID THE REPORT SAY?

GAIN? ISN'T THAT THE COMPUTER THAT RUNS THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND CONTROLS THE FREEWAYS?

GASP

IT FIGURES YOU WOULD THINK OF THAT, RATHER THAN ELECTRICITY, OR WATER, OR GAS... OR POLITICS, EVEN! GAIN'S PROGRAMMING THOSE NEW ROBOT PLATFORMS, YOU KNOW...

OF COURSE! IF THEY'D GIVEN IT TO ME INSIDE, I'D NEVER HAVE GOT IT PAST THE GUARDS, WOULD I?

SO WE'RE SUPPOSED TO PICK UP THIS MEMORY BANK OR WHATEVER IT IS OUTSIDE THE DETENTION CELL?

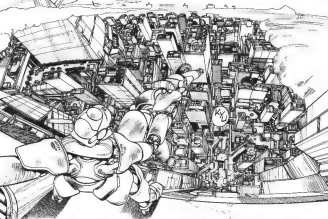
WHY?

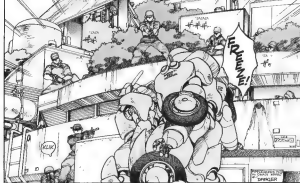
I DUNNO.

...AND THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT FROM DOING, PHYSICALLY, IF NECESSARY.









DEU--



YOU
HEARD
THE
MAN.



IF YOU
DON'T I'LL
PUT A
BULLET
THROUGH
YOUR
HEAD.

HAVEN'T
WE DONE
THIS
BEFORE?
POP THAT
ARMOR,
NICE AND
SLOW...



D-DON'T
MOVE!
SHE'LL
REALLY
DO IT!!

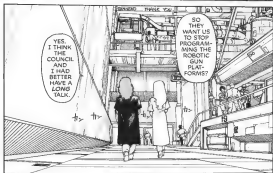
BUT
WHA--





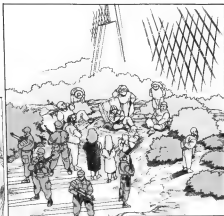








NOW
IF I
WERE
GALA...



...I'D
CONCLUDE
THAT
BIONIDS--
AND FOR THAT
MATTER, THIS
ENTIRE
SCIENTIFIC
UTOPIA--
AREN'T WHAT
HUMANS
REALLY
WANT.

...AND
PROB-
ABLY...

NATU-
RALLY, I'D
WANT TO
CONSULT AT
LENGTH
WITH TAR-
TARUS...

...THE SAME
PROPOSAL
THAT MADE
YOU SO
SUSPICIOUS
OF US
WOULD
MAKE ME
SUSPICIOUS
OF EVERY
BIONID.

...ARE
LIKELY TO
BECOME
THE
SAVAGE
INSTRU-
MENTS OF
A WRATH-
FUL GALA,
RIGHT?

SO YOU'RE
SUGGEST-
ING THAT
THOSE
ROBOT
GUN PLAY-
FORMS...





YOU SHOULD AT LEAST PREPARE FOR THE WORST...

THE FACT THAT THIS AFFAIR HAS OCCURRED AT ALL IS A FORE-SHADOWING OF OUR FAILURE.



WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE THE REST TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT?

YOU'RE QUITE PARANOID, ATHENA.



AS LONG AS THIS WARNING ITSELF ISN'T A TRAP...

IF THE GUN PLATFORM PROGRAMMING WENT AS SCHEDULED, IT SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY NOW.



SATISFIED...?

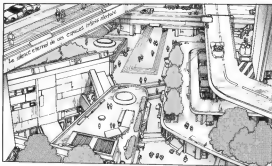
ALL RIGHT. I'LL PUT CONTROLS ON THE GUN PLATFORMS.



AT LEAST WE CAN TRUST ARES TO DO AS HE'S TOLD!

THE REGULAR POLICE ARE MONITORING A FEW OF YOUR GUINEA PIGS. NOTHING MORE.

I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE THAT SHARK OF YOURS--ARES, ISN'T IT?--OUT CHECKING ON OUR REAL INTENTIONS...



*Ostriches apparently stick just their head in the ground, giving them a sense of security.
Don't cover your head and leave your bottom exposed



TO BESETT

TO TAKE THE TOWER DOWN

TO JONES



UNTIL THOSE GUN PLATFORMS SAY "I'M FULL, MOMMY!"

CHRIST, THIS IS DRIVING ME NUTS! HOW LONG IS SAILA GOING TO KEEP THIS UP?

TO CHAO

TO KUN



?



CHIKA CHIKA

CHIKA!



THIS IS RUNNING WAY OVER THE SCHEDULED INPUT TIME!

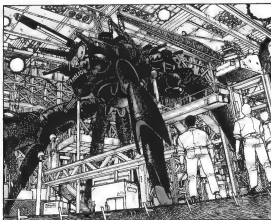


BUT PAY US IN ADVANCE THIS TIME!

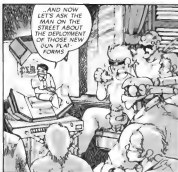
IF YOU WANT A BURGER, WE'LL PICK ONE UP FOR YOU...

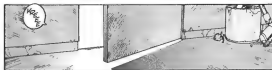
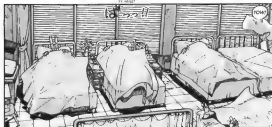
THE BOY WHO'S WITH OUR PEOPLE













BY KAPPA BROS. I

BY KAPPA



BY KAPPA









HE'S
DOSED
EVERY-
ONE
WITH A
SEDA-
TIVE!

LOOK, I'M
SORRY I
LIED TO YOU
BEFORE--
IT'S ME!
REMEMBER
THIS EYE?
FROM THE
BERETTA?



HANDS
ON THE
BED,
PAL!

WHY
HELLO.
THERE...



THAT
EYE
MEANS
NOTHING!
IN THIS CITY
THEY CAN
FAKE
ANYTHING!

NO,
W-WAIT!
LISTEN
TO ME!

WOW, I
OOPS!

MAH! I
KNEW IT
WAS YOU,
BY GOD!
PRETENDING
YOU DIDN'T
KNOW ME,
YOU BAD
BOY.!



WE'RE A
SAFETY VALVE...
WE MONITOR
EVERYONE, EVEN
THE JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT.
AND WHEN
SOMETHING
GOES HAYWIRE,
WE FIX IT.

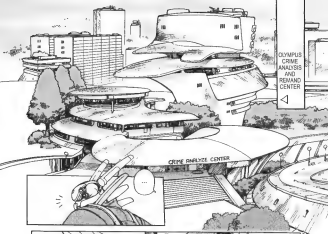


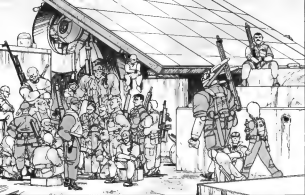
I'M NOT THE ONLY
ONE... THE FBI'S FULL
OF GUYS DISGUISED
AS BORGIDS. WE'RE A
SPECIAL INFILTRATION
UNIT, PLACED BY THE
PARANOIDS ON THE
OLD PLANNING
TEAM.

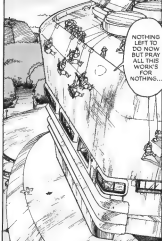
















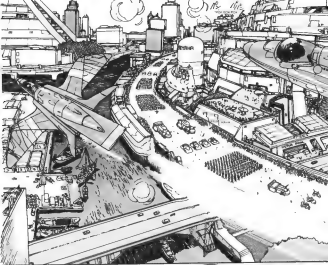




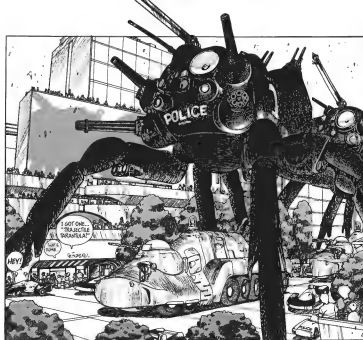
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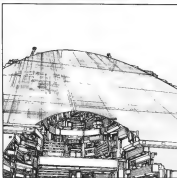


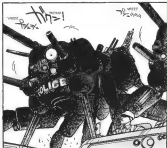








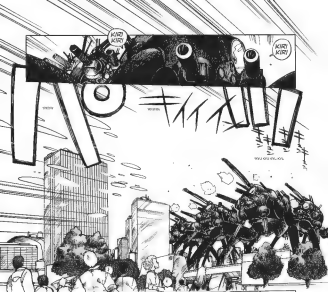


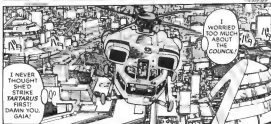


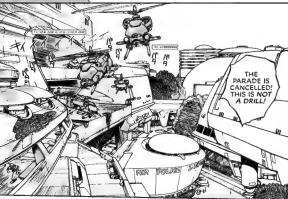
*Helios. Abbreviation for the roughly 100m in diameter "receiving antenna" on the surface for receiving in-provided from solar power generation satellites.

*Heliosat. Originally, plane mirrors used for solar power generation in tower condenser systems. Here, it's used on the level of mirrors set up to reflect light.



















TOO MUCH!

TOO MUCH! TOO MUCH!

TOO MUCH!



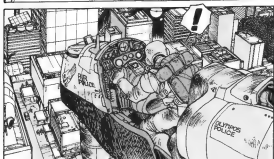
TOO MUCH! TOO MUCH!

TOO MUCH! TOO MUCH!

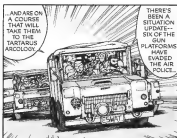
TOO MUCH! TOO MUCH!











...AND ARE ON
A COURSE
THAT WILL
TAKE THEM
TO THE
TARTARUS
ARCOLOGY.

THERE'S
BEEN A
SITUATION
UPDATE--
SIX OF THE
GUN
PLATFORMS
HAVE
EVADED
THE AIR
POLICE.



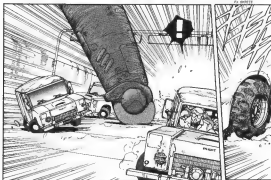
HAS THIS
BEEN
CON-
FIRMED BY
ATHENA?
VERY
WELL,
THEN.

WHAT??
GALA'S
USING GUN
PLATFORMS
TO ATTACK
TARTARUS??
ARE YOU
SERIOUS??



SQUAD ONE COMES WITH ME
TO TAKE OUT GALA'S OPTICAL
COMMUNICATIONS TOWER.
SQUAD TWO, GIVE US FIRE
SUPPORT. THREE, CORDON
THE AREA. FOUR, SET UP
NEAR THE ENTRANCES TO
THE TARTARUS BLOCK--
WHEN THE PLATFORMS
SHOW, KNOCK OUT THEIR
ANTENNAS.
FIVE--

SQUADS
FOUR,
FIVE, AND
SIX--
REVERSE
COURSE.





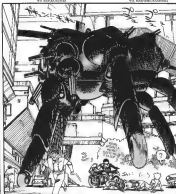
THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE







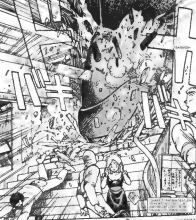


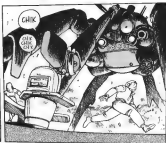
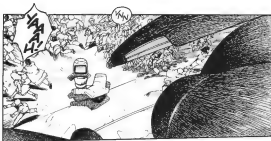












ト ト ト ト ト



IT'LL
TAKE US
ALL THE
WAY TO
AN M
BLOCK.
TOO!

THAT'S
PERFECT.
HITOMI!
GO FOR
IT!

I KNOW
A KEEN PLACE
IN BASEMENT
THREE WHERE
WE CAN GET
INTO THE
OPTICAL FIBER
DUCTS!



THE
WIND'S
PICKING UP--
CATCH BOWEN
SOMEHOW!

KEEP
THE
COMMAND
LATER IS
CRUCIAL

--CAN'T
PROTECT
TARTARUS!! WHAT
ABOUT THEIR
ANTENNAS?
THEY WHAT?
FIREPOWER?
I CAN'T HEAR
YOU--
RETRANSMIT!!

IT
SEEMS
TO BE
CHASING
SOME-
THING...

SIR!
THERE'RE TWO
PLATFORMS
BY THE GIGA
COMPLEX--ONE
OF THEM'S
UP TO SOME-
THING AT THE
BASE OF THE
ARCULOSE.



COLONEL.
SIR!

SIX OF THEM?
TAKING UP
POSITIONS AROUND
TARTARUS? DAMN
IT, THEY MEAN TO
LAUNCH AN
ULTRAVIOLET ATTACK!
BLOW THE PLAZA
OUT FROM UNDER
THEM IF YOU HAVE
TO, BUT DON'T
LET THEM GET
SET UP!

WELL, IS
IT UNDER
CONTROL?
YOU DON'T
NEED TO
BLOW THE
TOWER?



YES, SIR!
I MEAN, NO,
SIR! WE CUT
THE CABLES
AND
SECURED
THE COM-
MUNICATION
GRID,
BUT...



THERE'S
STILL NO
CHANGE IN
THEIR
MOVE-
MENTS,
EVEN WITH
THE COM-
MUNICA-
TION GRID
OUT?

THE BOMBING

THE BOMBING



WE CAN'T
GET THROUGH
HERE IN
THESE SUITS!
WOULDN'T IT
MAKE MORE
SENSE TO GO
BACK TOPSIDE?



I
INTEND
OVER TO
MY DEATH
BED

HOW'S
YOUR
GIRL
DOING?



WELL,
AT LEAST
THIS IS
CLEANER
THAN A
SEWER!

TANG!
KARA
KARA

GO
GO GO
GO!







THE BOMB THREAT



THE HUNT

THE BOMB THREAT

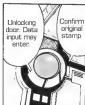
THE BOMB THREAT



THE BOMB THREAT



THE BOMB THREAT







*anti-hacker system: A system to defend against unauthorized intrusion into, manipulation of, and data retrieval from computer circuits









TO SHOCK

TO SHOCK



TO SHOCK

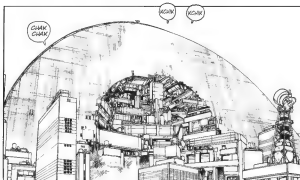


WE WENT AHEAD AND USED HITOMI WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION... SORRY, SIR. HAVE THE PLATFORMS STOPPED YET? WHAT'S THAT...? YES, SIR. I UNDERSTAND...



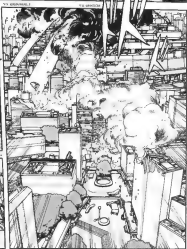
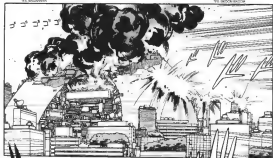
WHO'S THAT?













THERE!
HEADING
TOWARD
THE NUKE
PLANT!

TOO FAR AWAY

FFFFF



C-COLONEL!
LOOK!
BEAMS OF
LIGHT!



THROW A
MAGNETIC
NET AROUND
THE NUKE
PLANT! USE
THAT OLD
ONE FROM
THE WAR!

SQUEEZE
THE GAMA
ACCESS CODES OUT
OF THE COUNCIL!

AND
GET ME
THE
CENTRAL
MONITOR
ROOM!



NO, SIR... IT'S
RIGHT BELOW
US, MAYBE?
USING THE
CONFUSION--

COULD
IT BE
THE LAST
PLATFORM?

NO, I...



THE
HELIO-
STATS!!

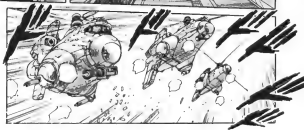
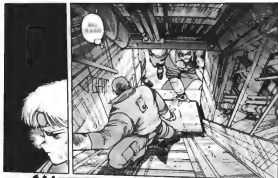


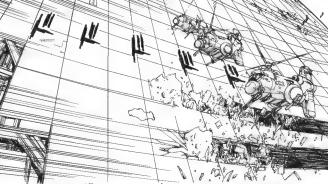
--ARGET THE MISSILE SALVOES HALFWAY DOWN THE HELIO ARRAY? TRY--

--CAN'T LAY A SMOKE SCREEN, THEN BUST THE GODDAMN HELIOARRAYS! USE THE--

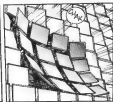
--MUST EVACUATE ALL CIVILIANS TO SHELTERS. ARMORED VEHICLES OR HELICOPT--

--HART CAN'T WE USE ONE OF THE GUN PLATFORMS TO--





THE BRIDGE



THE BRIDGE



IF WE CAN SHUT DOWN THAT FLYWHEEL STORAGE SYSTEM GAJA'S USING FOR POWER, SHE'LL HAVE TO TAP BACK INTO SOME OF THE HELIOSTAT GRIDS.

SHE'S WORKING AT LONG RANGE, AND THROUGH ATMOSPHERE-- WE'VE GOT A LITTLE TIME YET...

BUT SIR... IT'S COMING OFF 600,000 SQUARE YARDS OF MIRROR!

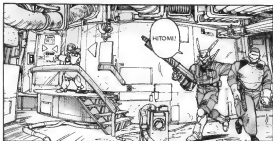
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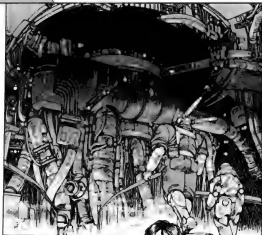
*Imported into aircraft and used to generate income for aircraft's performance.















THE BEST ROOM



NOOO!



HINN!



KAA!







DEUNAN!
LISTEN TO ME!!

I CAN'T
STAND IT!
WE'RE JUST
KILLERS!!

WHERE
ARE WE?
THIS
ISN'T
A SWAT
ASSAULT!!



HOW... HOW
DID WE GET
ALL THIS
TRAINING? ARE
WE STILL IN
BADSIDE?



THIS
MAY BE
OUR ONLY
CHANCE
TO SHOW
THAT WE
CONTROL
OUR
DESTINY.
NOT
HER!

BUT AT
THE SAME
TIME, GAIUS
CAN BE A
WEAPON
AGAINST
US! SHE
TAKES NO
SIDES, SO
SHE CAN
SERVE
ANYBODY!



GAIUS ISN'T
THE PROBLEM...
SHE PROTECTS EVERY-
THING HUMAN...
THE BAD ALONG WITH
THE GOOD! OUR REAL
ENEMY IS THE
PRESSURE THAT DRIVE
US TO BAD DECISIONS
AND KEEPS US
FROM USING HER
CORRECTLY!



AND IT ALL
DEPENDS ON
THE JUDGMENT
OF THE POINT
MAN! YOUR
JUDGMENTS!



THERE'S
NEVER
BEEN
A MORE
IMPORTANT
SWAT
ASSAULT!



*Note: Gaius's perspective Deunan and crew are terrorists, so under Olympus law (no real licenses for terrorists), they don't fall into a protected category.





YEAH...



HEY, WATCH IT!

GUH



TIME FOR THE BIG FINISH!

GUESS WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE FIRE SUPPORT, DO WE? TIME TO TRANSFER TO THE BOMB SQUAD!

WELL, THEN!



ARE YOU LOVIN' ME, BABY?

TRYING TO PROTECT THE CLOUDS FROM THE WINDS OF CHANGE, NOT JUST IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY ARMY, AND IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU, TOO.

PAU PAU



UP
HERE!

HAVE
YOU
FOUND
THE
SUBSYSTEM
RUNNING
THE
HELIO-
STATS?



SEN!

CAN'T SEE IT
THAT WELL. DAMN
LOOK, WE'LL DO
THIS SYNCHRO---
YOU "LOOK" AT
THE TARGET
ALONG WITH
ME

IT'S
THE 48th
CABLE
OVER,
COUNTING
FROM THE
RIGHT



?



THAT
LAST
FIGHT... MY
FINGERS
ARE
GOING
NUMB.

OKAY...
NEXT?

DEUNAN,
YOU
BETTER
GET
A GUN
READY



THE
ONE
WITH
THE
GREEN
ARROW
RIGHT?

OKAY...
UMMM...
SHOOT
THAT
CABLE
FIRST.



BEFORE THAT, WE
BETTER
CHECK
BEHIND
THIS PANEL
HERE
COULD
YOU--



BUT
WHY?
SHOOT
THEM
NOW!

JUST
WAIT?

THE REGULAR
HELIOSTAT
CONTROL
LINE AND THE
EMERGENCY
CIRCUIT
GALA'S NOW
USING BOTH
BUT OVER
THERE, BUT--



AND--

IN



AND ONE
OF THEM'S
ALREADY
LOCKED
IN



DAMN
IT-- I
THOUGHT
SO! MORE
BACKUP
CIRCUITS!



IF WE JUST
SMASH IT, I THINK
THAT WOULD CAUSE
GALA TO LOCK THE
HELIOSTATS INTO
PLACE VIA THE
EMERGENCY BYPASS
AND JUST SHUT
DOWN THE CIRCUIT
HERE. SHE'D GIVE
THE NEW ROUTING
PRIORITY OVER
THE REGULAR
CIRCUITS.
SEE?

HOLD
IT

DO WE
HAVE TO
JUST THAT
MIDDLE
ONE
BEFORE
TAKING
OUT THE
EMER-
GENCY
CIRCUIT?



YOSH! WE'VE ONLY GOT FOUR MINUTES AND TWENTY-THREE SECONDS LEFT! HURRY!

I THINK WE CAN ASSUME THE HELIOSTATS NORMALLY FUNCTION AUTOMATICALLY AND INVOLUNTARILY, LIKE HUMAN ORGANS.

NO KIDDING.

SO... WE WANT TO KEEP THE BACK-UP CIRCUIT FROM KICKING IN WITH-
OUT ACTUALLY BREAKING IT AND THEN CUT THE EMERGENCY CIRCUIT? THAT'S A PAIN...



IT'S SUPER-COOLED TO 450° BELOW--- IT'LL FREEZE THE SKIN RIGHT OFF YOU!

IDIOT! GET OUT OF THERE!

SEE... WHY DON'T I JUST CRAWL IN AND STUFF SOMETHING INTO IT?

SIXTEEN FEET IN FROM THE HATCH, HUH? THAT'S A TOUGH ONE...



WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

WE'RE GOING TO PLUG THE BACKUP CIRCUIT CONNECTOR HOLE.

UHM!

HITOMI, THERE SHOULD BE AN APPLE IN MY JACKET POCKET-- DIG OUT A COUPLE OF SEEDS.

...BUT BRIAREOS...

BUT...

DEUNAN... GIVE ME SOME HOLLOW-POINT ROUNDS.



COULD YOU PLEASE?! JUST LET MY NAME LEAVE! I HADN'T WORKED A GUY INTO THE MESS! THANKS!

NO... I'M GOING TO TAKE OUT MOST OF THE POWDER-- LEAVE JUST ENOUGH SO THE BULLET CAN CLEAR THE BARREL.

WELL, THAT'S THE IDEA.

WITH A BULLET? YOU'LL JUST SMASH IT TO BITS!



100000







POPE BLOODHAT?

POUNCE THE THING!



A PERFECTLY
CONSTRUCTED
ROY...

A UTOPIA
DESIGNED FOR THE
UTOPIAN SELF...



THEY'RE NOT IN
BALANCE. THOSE
GIANT SCALES...



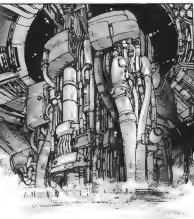
FOR WHOM?

TO WHAT
END...?

ANYMORE...I
DON'T.









...I CAN'T
LET HER
DESTROY
THIS
CITY.

WHETHER
GAIUS
RIGHT
OR
WRONG...

IF THE
OTHER
HUMANS CAN'T
COPE WITH
PRESSURE,
THEN LET THEM
BE MADE INTO
BIOROIDS.



THE CITY
WHERE
YOU
LIVE,
BRI...



WITH
YOU
DEUNAN...



SO IT SEEMS
THAT THE
PROBLEM WASN'T
HUMAN NATURE
AFTER ALL. THE
PLANS FOR
OLYMPUS ITSELF
WERE TOO
OPTIMISTIC.

RELIGION,
PHILOSOPHY,
CUSTOMS, IDEOLOGY,
ETHNICITY... IN OUR
HASTE TO BRING
THEM ALL
TOGETHER, WE PILED
UP TOO MANY
COMPROMISES,
TOO MANY
MACHINES

GIP

HMM...

THE CITY
OF DEUNAN
IS A NEW
FUTURIST





IN ANY CASE, THE COUNCIL CAN DO AS THEY PLEASE... JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO, GAIJA GAVE ME THE NEXT NAME IN THE REGISTER OF KEYWORD HOLDERS. WITH THAT, I CAN TRIGGER THE NEXT STAGE OF GAIJA'S DEVELOPMENT.

STILL, USING NEITHER IS THE BEST SOLUTION OF ALL.

EVEN THE BEST MEDICINE CAN BE POISONOUS IF YOU TAKE TOO MUCH... AND POISON IN THE RIGHT QUANTITIES OFTEN MAKES GOOD MEDICINE.

IT WON'T BE A "FINAL SOLUTION."

THE WORLD OF THE FUTURE IS NOW

HMM?

...AND NOW THE KEYWORD REGISTER. THE PIECES ARE FINALLY COMING TOGETHER-- I CAN SEE IT NOW.

COLLECTING GURBA PDS, PUTTING LANDMATES ON SALE, THE HOPE PLAN..

119

THIS WILL BE THE AGE WHEN "HOMO SAPIENS" TAKES ON ITS TRUE MEANING... "MAN OF WISDOM"

THE AGE OF THE BIO-ROIDS...





HRMM?

SAY,
ERI...



I DUNNO...
MAYBE
GO BACK
INTO THAT
JAIL?

SO WHAT
DO WE
DO
NOW?



SOUNDS
FINE
TO ME.

WANT
TO GO
TAKE
A GOOD
LOOK AT
THIS CITY
WITH
ME?

I THINK
I'M GOING
TO TAKE A
LOOONG
VACA-
TION.



KNOW
WHAT?



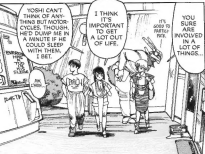
GMON.
NOW--
DON'T
GET
CAR-
RIED
AWAY.

OWL.

THE
WORLD
LOOKS
SO
SMALL
FROM UP
HERE...









ABSURD!
YOU DON'T
TAKE
SERIO YOUR
COVER!

SO
BIOROIDS
ARE THE
ONLY ONES
WHO CAN
GET
EXTEN-
SIONS.
RIGHT?

THERE'S
A LIMIT TO
HOW MANY
LIFE EXTEN-
SIONS YOU
CAN GET.
YOU'VE GOT
TO ENJOY
YOURSELF
WHILE YOU
CAN!



YOU CAN IMPROVE
THE ENVIRONMENT.
MEDICAL
TECHNOLOGY! THE
BODY'S RESISTANCE
TO PATHOGENS--
THINGS LIKE
THAT.

OF COURSE,
LOOKING UP
WENT TO A
PRODUCT OF
SCIENCE!

THAT'S THE
BEST THING
ABOUT
BEING BORN
A BIOROID--
HAVING A
BODY THAT
CAN ACCEPT
THAT KIND
OF TREAT-
MENT.



I DON'T SEE A
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
WITH A DIFFERENCE!
YOUR TALK IS BORING!
DON'T IT OF FOR ME,
WILL YOU?

LOOKS
LIKE YOU
BIOROIDS
STILL HAVE A
FEW THINGS
IN COMMON
WITH
HUMANS...



KYAAAA!

TIME FOR
YOUR PAINFULMAN
TREAT-
MENT,
DARLING!

士 郎 正 宗 PROMETHEUS UNBOUND
APPLESEED™

You can't have a perfect society without perfect people, and the only perfect people are the ones you can manufacture. The governing body of Olympus, an urban utopia created from the ashes of World War III, is about to bring paradise crashing down around their ears as they seek to regulate the minds and bodies of the human race . . . or fully replace them with cyborg substitutes. Deunan and Briareos find themselves in the unlikely position of having to hold together this house of cards. Their strategy? Destroy the old foundation and pray everything stands while new underpinnings are forged!

From *Ghost in the Shell* creator Shirow Masamune comes the manga masterpiece *Appleseed*, the epic cyberpunk vision that deftly balances hardcore techno-science, wry political commentary, and explosive action, and inspired the wildly popular animated film.

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

darkhorse.com



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